

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An embolic protection device for capturing embolic debris released into a body vessel of a patient, comprising:

a shaft member having a distal end, [and] a proximal end and a stop fitting;
and

a filtering assembly rotatably mounted on the shaft member near the distal end thereof, the filtering assembly including an expandable strut assembly and a filter attached to the strut assembly for capturing embolic debris, the filtering assembly being mounted on an outer tubular member which is coaxially disposed over an inner tubular member having a length shorter than the outer tubular member, wherein one end of the inner tubular member is adapted to abut against the stop fitting located on the shaft member for limiting axial movement of the filtering assembly along the [guide wire] shaft member.

2. (Original) The embolic protection device of claim 1, wherein:
the shaft member is a guide wire and includes a distal spring tip coil, the spring tip coil serving as the stop fitting which abuts against the inner tubular member.

3. (Currently Amended) The embolic protection device of claim 2, wherein:
each of the inner and outer tubular members has a proximal end and a distal end and the guide wire includes a second stop fitting in an abutting relationship with the proximal ends of the outer and inner tubular members.

4. (Original) The embolic protection device of claim 2, wherein:

the outer tubular member extends over a portion of the spring tip coil of the guide wire.

5. (Original) The embolic protection device of claim 2, wherein:
the outer and inner tubular members are made from polyimide.

Claims 6 – 31. (Canceled).

32. (Original) An embolic protection device for capturing embolic debris released into the body vessel of a patient, comprising:
a shaft member having a distal end and a proximal end;
a filtering element mounted on the shaft member near the distal end thereof, the filtering element including an expandable strut assembly and a filter attached to the strut assembly for capturing embolic debris, and
a layer of polymeric material having a coefficient of friction less than the coefficient of friction of the material of the strut assembly deposited on at least part of the strut assembly proximal to the filter.

33. (Currently Amended) The embolic protection device of claim 32, wherein:
the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of PTFE [,]
and polyimide[, and heparin].

34. (Original) The embolic protection device of claim 32, wherein:
the entire strut assembly is coated with the polymeric material.

35. (Currently Amended) The embolic protection device of claim 34, wherein:
the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of PTFE [,]
and polyimide[, and heparin].

36. (Previously Presented) An embolic protection device for capturing embolic debris released into the body vessel of a patient, comprising:

a shaft member having a distal end and a proximal end;
a filtering element mounted on the shaft member near the distal end thereof, the filtering element including an expandable strut assembly and a filter attached to the strut assembly for capturing embolic debris, the expandable strut assembly being movable between an expanded position and an unexpanded position and having regions which experience high strain and regions which experience low strain during movement between the unexpanded position and the expanded position; and
a layer of polymeric material deposited on the regions which experience low strain, the layer of polymeric material having a coefficient of friction less than the coefficient of friction of the material forming the strut assembly.

37. (Previously Presented) The embolic protection device of claim 36, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of PTFE and polyimide.

38. (Previously Presented) An embolic protection device for capturing embolic debris released into the body vessel of a patient, comprising:
a shaft member having a distal end and a proximal end;
a filtering element mounted on the shaft member near the distal end thereof, the filtering element including an expandable strut assembly and a filter attached to the strut assembly for capturing embolic debris, and
a coating made from a substance having a coefficient of friction less than the coefficient of friction of the material forming the strut assembly selectively deposited on portions of the strut assembly proximal to the filter.

39. (Previously Presented) The embolic protection device of claim 38, wherein the coating substance is a hydrophilic substance.

40. (Previously Presented) The embolic protection device of claim 38, wherein the coating substance is heparin.

41. (New) The embolic protection device of claim 32, wherein the expandable strut assembly is made from a material having self-expanding properties.

42. (New) The embolic protection device of claim 36, wherein the expandable strut assembly is made from a material having self-expanding properties.

43. (New) The embolic protection device of claim 38, wherein the expandable strut assembly is made from a material having self-expanding properties.